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## Chamber of Commerce Has Gained Islands Recognition in U. S.

High praise for the work done by the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippine Islands is given that body by an editorial of recent date, printed in the Manila, P. I., "Bulletin." The editorial follows:

"There are two things which the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippine Islands has done quite recently which command admiration.

"In the first place its mission to the United States has served to foster interest in the archipelago and to lead thinking men and women at home to seek more complete information regarding them.

"In the second place its efforts have resulted in a decision on the part of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States to consider the Islands as Hawaii and Alaska, both recognized territories of the United States.

"Whether this attitude on the part of the United States Chamber will in the future have any political significance is a moot question, and one which need not at present be discussed. What is of primary importance is the fact that as long as the American flag flies here the Chamber will accord us the same consideration and work for our interests in the same manner as is the case when it is concerned with territory unanimously agreed to be part and parcel of the nation.

"While the American sovereignty obtains in the Philippines, and while the Congress agrees to free trade between the two countries, it is proper that the business interests at home should consider us, for trade purposes at least, part and parcel of the United States. Only by so doing can they do us full justice."

## P. I. Realty Up \$4,362,000 in Year

Figures just compiled by the executive bureau show that the value of taxable real property in the Philippine Islands increased by \$4,362,000, and that of non-taxable property by \$1,565,000 during the year 1924, over the preceding year.

In 1924 the value of the taxable real property amounted to \$600,600,000, compared with \$596,238,000 in 1923. The value of the non-taxable property for 1924 placed at \$96,565,000 as against \$95,000,000 for the preceding year.

## Philippine Trade Develops Under U. S. Protectorate

Indications from authoritative sources in the Philippines show that the total trade of the territory for this year will be not less than \$300,000,000. The effect of the American protectorate upon the Philippines may be seen in the statement that in the last year before the war the total trade of the Islands was slightly in excess of \$101,000,000, and that by 1923 it had grown to \$208,550,000.

From the time the United States took over the Philippine Islands from Spain, in 1899, to 1913, the volume of trade in the Islands moved steadily forward, year by year, with an average trade per annum of \$67,000,000. In the buying peak of 1920, the foreign trade of the Philippines reached the sum of \$300,560,000. A striking fea-

(Continued on next page)

## Air-route Across Pacific To Link P. I. to the U. S.

Zeppelins such as the ZR-3 and the Shenandoah will be operating on regular schedule between the Philippine Islands and San Francisco if the dreams of the newly formed Manila Branch of the National Aeronautical Association of America crystallize. The members of the organization are now formulating plans to be submitted to President Coolidge and Secretary of War Weeks, showing the practicability of the undertaking.

The flight of the ZR-3 from Berlin to New York shows that this type of motor vessel can safely navigate long distances with perfect running ease. From the records of the German airship's trans-oceanic flight it has been estimated that the trip could be made from San Francisco, via Hawaii and Guam, to Manila, in a little more than five days. The primary purpose of this air service would be to transport mail from the United States to her colonial territories such as Hawaii, Guam and the Philippines.

The consummation of such an undertaking would bring the Islands and the United States into much closer economic and social contact. In this way this service would be greatly instrumental in promoting relations between the Islands and the United States, and the underlying value of this air system is much greater than might be indicated from a cursory examination of the project.



## Forest Conservation in Progress

According to Major George P. Ahern, trustee of the Tropical Plant Research Foundation, the costly experience of forest destruction in the United States is being turned to advantage in the development of hardwood forests in the Philippines. Lumber companies operating over large tracts of land are not being given a free hand with the forests, the Major asserted, but are granted twenty-year cutting concessions, for which they pay stumpage running from \$10 to \$20 an acre and over, and which are renewable if properly handled.

The areas granted are large enough, the Major said, so that a given company will require eighty or ninety years to make the first cutting, which gives plenty of time for a second growth of timber to develop. Complete clearing is not permitted, except where it can be shown that the land is of greater value for farms than for forests.

"When we first started operations," Major Ahern said, "firms with experience in tropical forestry told us that modern logging machinery could not be used. We used it. We put in light railways to bring the timber out, and did away with animal transport and with much of the manual labor. They told us, too, that only the few valuable woods would pay for cutting. We are taking many other kinds of wood, which are now in high demand for veneer. They told us that a forest so mixed as ours, which comprises at least 2500 tree species, could not be handled profitably. We studied the possible uses of some twenty-odd dominant species constituting about 80 per cent of the stand, and made tables for the information of engineers and constructors, and now have a good market for everything we take out.

"Philippine mahogany, of course, is one of our best payers. The mahogany cut in Central America averages less than 2000 feet per acre; Philippine mahogany and a few other woods in some instances run in some areas as high as 40,000 feet per acre. And the Philippine mahogany and the valuable veneer woods are replacing themselves where they have been cut."

## Islands to Get New Industry

The unusual climatic and geographic position of the Philippines has enabled business men of the Islands to start a new industry, the cultivation of the cassava plant on a commercial basis. The cassava, which grows only in the salubrious climate of the tropics, yields a large amount of starch.

The Philippine Tapioca Company, Inc., newly incorporated to undertake this projected industry, plans to begin the cultivation of the cassava plant in the Philippines, and soon will erect a plant for the manufacture of starch and other products which are to be obtained from the plant.

Production of this plant has reached wide proportions in Java, according to recent reports from Manila. In the last few months 2,500 pounds of the cassava plant have been imported into the Philippines. The roots of the plant contain as high as 40 per cent of starch, and 10 tons of roots can be produced per acre of soil.

A study of the soil of the Philippines has been made by the officials of the company who consider the cultivation of the product, and it has been stated there are thousands of acres of land in the Islands which may be devoted to the growing of the plant.

The starch produced is used in food products and also in the manufacture of paper, textiles, paints and other products. It is the expectation of the company that the potential export market can be made to absorb many millions of tons of starch yearly.

## Philippine Trade Develops Under U. S. Protectorate

(Continued from page 1)

ture in this history of trade development is the fact that when the Islands passed out of the hands of Spain, only thirteen per cent of the foreign trade of the Islands was with the United States; while by 1923 this percentage had grown to sixty-five per cent.

The Philippines, under the protective economic influence of the United States, have assumed a powerful position in world commerce. This, as statistics show, has been accomplished only since the Islands were taken over by the United States.

Since the war, financiers and international business men have better real-

## Large Development of Crops Is Possible in Philippines

In a recent publication of the Philippine Bureau of Agriculture, entitled "Food Plants of the Philippines," attention is called to experiments which have been carried on in the Philippines and which show that vegetable plants and other food crops grown in some parts of the Islands are well adapted to other regions. Extension of such cultivation depends, it is said, upon a more economical system of transportation and distribution than now exists. Officials claim that with the improvement in farming methods native substitutes will be found which will materially affect imports.

Possibilities of further development in production, according to the Bureau of Agriculture, exist in the case of sugar, copra, coconut oil, coffee, starch, rice, corn and peanuts. Fresh and preserved fruits are spoken of as products destined to be exported in increasingly large quantities.

A big palm oil industry, it is claimed, could well be developed in the Islands and there are indications which seem to show that tea and cocoa will figure as Philippine exports in the near future. Tea, in particular, should grow well in Mindanao.

The plant from which mate is obtained, introduced into the Islands within the last 24 years, has already proved its adaptability to the climate and soil. If mate, as a beverage, should become as universally popular as coffee or tea, a new industry might be developed.

Other experiments have shown that the Islands are suited to the growth of several spices, such as cinnamon, pepper and vanilla.

During the week of March 20, this year, 1,000 tourists arrived at Manila on four trans-oceanic liners.

ized the narrow confines of world sources, even of necessities. In the war's aftermath the Philippines have reached out and become a prominent economic factor and a field of almost illimitable supply. The stimulation of production and trade in these islands of the Pacific, is, therefore, not only a service to the Philippines, but a world-service as well.

